

many seasonal things, although
or two vendors will have some

Michelle Wallace at (586)993-0366.

Macomb County jury room offers wireless Internet

Broadcasting from high atop the Macomb County courthouse, it's ... the jury room.

Jury duty just got better for county residents because Clerk/Register of Deeds Carmella Sabaugh launched free wireless Internet service for jurors. Jurors with laptops or palmtop computers may now use e-mail, surf the web or even work remotely while waiting in the jury room. Sabaugh's proposal is believed to be among the first of its kind in Michigan.

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved Sabaugh's proposal in mid-December, and she already has it up and running.

"We want to let jurors quietly stay in touch with work or family while waiting to be picked for a case," said Sabaugh. "This is a real-world example of the benefits of wireless Internet service, which I hope will help Mount Clemens and other initiatives."

"We're reducing the inconvenience and boredom of jury duty," said Macomb County Chief Judge Antonio P. Viviano. "Our increasing caseload requires more and more jurors, and Clerk Sabaugh's service

is another positive change."

The system was launched last week for the first jurors of 2006. The entire project has a one-time cost of approximately \$500 and a monthly cost of approximately \$65. Over 20,000 county residents will have contact with the jury room this year. Juror wireless Internet access is completely separate from the county's computer network, ensuring security of county data.

Jurors wishing to use the service are given a password. Jurors are not permitted to use the service in a courtroom or if they are assigned to a case.

Sabaugh recently made other juror improvements. She pushed for a one-day/one-trial system that started this month shortening jury duty to one day for most jurors and saved money for the county. She started a program with the Suburban Mobile Authority for Regional Transport providing free bus tickets to jurors and also partnered with the Mount Clemens Public Library letting jurors request books on the Internet to be delivered to the jury room upon jurors arrival. Both programs were done at no additional taxpayer cost.

No one reads small ads.

Oh, really?

